



REPORT TO CABINET

18 March 2020

Subject:	Recommendations arising from Scrutiny Boards – Brandhall Golf Course
Presenting Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Paul Moore
Director:	Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	 
Key Decision:	No
Forward Plan (28 day notice) Reference:	No
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Report is from: Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.
Director Approval:	Yes
Reason for Urgency:	Urgency provisions do not apply
Exempt Information Ref:	Exemption provisions do not apply
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	Ward members have not been consulted
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	Recommendations are from: Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.
Contact Officer(s):	Alex Goddard, Democratic Services Officer alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Cabinet, prior to any final decision being taken on the proposed closure and alternative future uses of Brandhall Golf Course, be requested to:-
- (a) carry out further detailed assessments, modelling and technical assessments, including an assessment on social isolation and inclusion;

- (b) carry out an assessment on the availability of affordable golf courses in the vicinity;
 - (c) explore the feasibility of retaining an element of the Course by reducing it to a 9-hole course;
 - (d) explore the feasibility of members of the Brandhall Golf Club and the local community taking on the running and operation of Brandhall Golf Course or a community asset transfer;
 - (e) undertake further consultation with the community in the event that it is proposed to close Brandhall Golf Course.
- (2) That the Executive Director – Neighbourhoods provide updates to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in relation to the above.
- (3) That Cabinet note that the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board requested further information in relation to Brandhall Golf Course including:-
- (a) a full breakdown of the operating and subsidy costs of Brandhall Golf Course to be provided by Sandwell Leisure Trust to the Council as soon as possible;
 - (b) a copy of all assessments that been conducted by the Council to date on Brandhall Golf Course.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report submits the recommendations of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in relation to Brandhall Golf Course for consideration by the Cabinet.

2 IMPLICATION FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The recommendations proposed by the Scrutiny Board contribute to the following ambitions within Vision 2030:-

Ambition 2 – Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

Ambition 8 – Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Scrutiny is a statutory process, independent of the Council's Executive, which reviews existing policy, develops new options for improving services, holds the executive and partner agencies to account, and monitors the delivery and performance of Council services in line with the 2030 ambitions.
- 3.2 At the Cabinet Meeting on 30 October 2019, the following was resolved (Minute No.124/19);
- (1) That the Executive Director – Neighbourhoods, undertake all requisite steps necessary to ensure effective consultation with regards to the proposed closure and alternative uses of the Brandhall Golf Course site
 - (2) following consultation, consider a more detailed report on future use of the site.
- 3.3 A six-week public consultation exercise was then carried out from 7 November 2019 to 19 December 2019. The outcomes of that public consultation were reported to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board on 27 February 2020.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board discussed the consultation outcomes. Local residents, members of Brandhall Golf Club and a local ward member also attended the meeting.
- 4.2 From the discussion and the information that was presented the Scrutiny Board identified a number of recommendations to Cabinet in relation to Brandhall Golf Course. These are set out above for Cabinet's consideration.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 When considering the recommendations and potential options, directors and Cabinet Members will determine if further consultation will be required.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 If Cabinet does not consider the recommendations proposed by the Scrutiny Board then any improvements, savings and income generation possibilities identified by the Boards may be missed.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any resources implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report will be explored by the relevant directors and will be included in further reports as appropriate.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Any legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report will be explored by the relevant directors and will be the subject of a further report where appropriate.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 No equality impact assessment has been carried out at this stage.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 As the recommendations do not relate to personal data, no data protection impact assessment is deemed necessary at this stage.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 13.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report although the availability of facilities to partake in physical activity (either a golf course or an open space) is important in supporting good health and wellbeing.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 14.1 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The Cabinet is requested to consider the recommendations and determine what action it wishes to take.
- 15.2 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Cabinet is requested to respond to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Board within two months, setting out any approved recommendations, and how they will be implemented.
- 15.3 Progress against these recommendations will be monitored by the Council's overview and scrutiny function.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Minutes of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board – 27 February 2020.

17 APPENDICES:

None

Surjit Tour

Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer